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| Executive Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods    3rd May 2024 | St Mary’s C E Primary School  Southam Road  BANBURY  Oxfordshire  OX16 2EG  Telephone: 01295 263026  Email:[office@banburystmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:office@banburystmarysschool.co.uk)  Web: [www.banburystmarysschool.co.uk](http://www.banburystmarysschool.co.uk) |

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe we are only a week away from Year 6 doing their SAT’s tests, but we are. May has dawned and with it we hope some warmer, sunnier weather for all. Ms Sturgeon and the OPAL team are desperate to get the sand pit open for some sunny fun on the beach, and we all want to stop dodging the clouds and do away with our wellies and waterproofs. Here is hoping….

In the meantime, apart from Year 6 working really hard with Mrs Smith and team in preparation for their tests, everyone else has been producing amazing work and having some really fantastic and fun learning experiences. Y4 and Y5 have been out to Banbury Mosque, where they were made very welcome by our friends there and learnt lots. It was wonderful for our Muslim children to be able to share their specialist knowledge of somewhere special to them and their families and we say a huge thank you to everyone at the Mosque for their warm welcome and support. Y2 and Y3 have been to Oxford, learning about the Anglo Saxon’s and impressing Miss Weber and Mr Field with their brilliant questions, behaviour and learning. Meanwhile Early Years and Y1 have been exploring the Lighthouse Keeper’s Lunch and thinking about the seaside… we are hoping they will be able to have their very own beach day once the sand pit is open, there may even be ice cream!

All this hard work really shows how much your children have grown up physically, in their learning and emotionally already this year. As we enter the last three months of the school year, we have a visit this coming week from the Church of England Inspection team, known as ‘SIAMS’. As a Church school we are visited every few years by them, in the same way as by OFSTED, to see how we are doing. Are we living our Vision – *“Learning, Transforming, Growing”* – and Values? How do we support all in our community to be valued, loved and served by us not only in what they learn, but how they learn it and how do we develop our own and our children’s Spirituality, love and understanding for themselves, each other, their families and community. Mr Duncan Hutchison, the SIAMS Inspector, will be with us on Thursday 9th May and there will be a chance for some of you to meet him and share your experiences of being a member of our special community. Please speak to Ms Bailey if this is something you are interested in doing. At the end of this letter, is more information from the Inspector explaining more about his visit.

**Parental Survey:**

This is a good point to say a HUGE THANK YOU to the very high number of you that completed the Parental Survey during last term. The response was overwhelming and the comments made by so many of you heart-warming and humbling, thank you for all of us to all of you for you gratitude and support for all we do at St Mary’s. The Local Governing Board was thrilled to see the 100% support we have for recommending our school to others.

**School Places:**

Our Nursery is currently full and if you have children or know people with children coming up to 3 years who will want a place, please **contact the school office** to make sure we are aware of potential new pupils for when places become available either now or in September.

Our Reception class for September also has only 1 place at this time, late applications and new applications for Reception in September must be made through:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

And we only have about 4 places left in the rest of school. If you know people looking for or expecting places at St Mary’s either now or in September, they MUST apply through the above website for all other year groups except Nursery (which we manage ourselves). Thank you.

**Staffing:**

Mrs Battle has not been with us for some weeks now and has decided to leave us. We wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Miss Bullard will continue to be the permanent class teacher for Fledglings.

Mrs Jodie Gregory has joined the team to support teaching across classes this term and everyone has made her feel really welcome to school.

**Parking:**

We are still struggling with the parking, especially in School Lane. It is a safety issue for ALL of us, adults and children and also a pollution risk. Please walk to school or park and walk, it is much easier at this time of year and better for everyone’s health. It has been noted not only the illegal parking but also the number of cars sitting running engines outside school. If you really have to park near school, please turn your engine off.

As ever the PCSO team are aware and will be checking regularly.

**The highway is NOT under school jurisdiction**, so we will not ever intervene on the street directly, but we encourage you to report repeat offenders to the Police and Council – they do take action.

A few people have asked about bike racks. The irony is we used to have them and no one used them, in fact bikes and scooters were often abandoned in the rack for months on end, so we had them removed and built our AMAZING mud kitchen instead! Having bikes and scooters on site is not currently an easy option, we also don’t want personal bikes muddled up with our OPAL stash. There is more development to come regarding OPAL play and bikes in coming months, it may be we can look at some on site storage, but in the meantime, if you ride or scoot to school, please take you vehicles home with you after drop off.

There follows the letter from the SIAMS Inspector and then an updated list of school dates for the rest of the year. Some of these HAVE CHANGED so please make sure that you check and update your diaries.

At the very end (I know, it’s a long one!) are the dates for the next academic year too. Please take careful note of these when planning holidays and visits abroad and make sure that you book to travel after school has finished, thank you for your cooperation with this.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are all looking forward to a lovely Summer at school,

Kind regards,

Mrs Woods and the entire St Mary’s Team

*Letter from SIAMS Inspector Mr Duncan Hutchison;*

*Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Inspection of St Mary’s Church of England Primary School*

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*All Church of England and Methodist schools are inspected approximately every five years by a SIAMS inspector from the Church of England, although there has been some delay to our inspections due to Covid.*

*I will be inspecting your child’s school on Thursday 9th May 2024.*

*A SIAMS inspection is an opportunity to highlight the impact that the school’s Christian vision has on the flourishing of the whole school community.*

*As part of my evidence-gathering I will speak with a range of people from within the school community. It is likely that I will speak with some of you on the inspection day.*

*Following the inspection, I will write a report. Once the report has been finalised it will be published, and the inspection findings will be shared with you. This will be approximately three weeks after the inspection. The report will celebrate all that is special about the school, and will identify next steps that are helpful in the school’s ongoing development as a Church school.*

*The report will be published on the school’s website, and I would encourage you to read it.*

*I look forward to spending time with the school community on Thursday 9th May.*

*Kind regards,*

*Duncan Hutchison, SIAMS Inspector*

**Dates for the rest of the year.**

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| **Date and times** | **Event** | **Notes** | |
| Wednesday 8th May | **Girls and Boys Y5/6 Football match** | Boys Away v The Grange  Girls Home v The Grange | |
| Monday 13th – Thursday 16th | **Year 6** SAT Tests | NO requests for absence can be authorised this week | |
| Friday 17th May | **Robins Celebration Worship** | 2.45pm in the hall, all welcome | |
| Monday 20th May | **Netball Match** | Home v William Morris | |
| Monday 20th May, 7.30pm | **St Mary’s Church Annual Parish Meeting** | In the school Hall. If you want to learn more about the work and activity of our Church, please feel free to attend | |
| Tuesday 21st May | **Y5/6 cricket Festival** | Details to follow | |
| Wednesday 22nd May | **Netball Match** | Away v Bloxham Primary | |
| Thursday 23rd May | **Whole school May Revels** | Join us on the playground from 2.00 for dancing, singing cake and fun! | |
| **THURSDAY** 23rd May,  3.15pm | School CLOSES for Half Term  PLEASE NOTE THS IS A **THURSDAY** AND MAY DIFFER FROM OTHER LOCAL SCHOOLS | | |
| **TUESDAY** 4th June 2023 | Summer term 2 starts  School OPENS 8.35am  PLEASE NOTE THS IS A **TUESDAY** AND MAY DIFFER FROM OTHER LOCAL SCHOOLS | | |
| Thursday 6th June | **Banbury Civic Commemoration 80th Anniversary D-Day** | | Group pupils to attend. Details to follow |
| Wednesday 12th June | **Banbury Annual Planting in the Park** | | Year 6, details to follow |
| Thursday 13th June | **Y1 Multi skills tournament** | | Details to follow |
| w/c 17th June | **Digital Arts Project** | | Details to follow |
| TUESDAY 18th June  Note change of date | **SPORTS DAY** | | Details to follow, families invited for the afternoon |
| W/C 1st July | **Banbury Schools Y7 Transition** | | Please liaise with the secondary school directly for exact details. Each school is slightly different. |
| Tuesday 2nd July | **Royal Opera House, Create day Y4/5** | | Details to follow |
| Thursday 4th July | **Annual Y6 Service at Christ Church Cathedral** | | Y6 pupils join ithers from across the Diocese in a Service of Thanksgiving. (Children only) |
| Friday 12th July | **Art EXHIBITION** | | Annual chance to see your children’s amazing artwork. Details to follow |
| Monday 15th July  Note change of date | **Music SHOWCASE** | | Annual chance to hear your children’s amazing music. Details to follow |
| Thursday 18th July | **Cherwell Theatre Company**  **‘*A home for Harmony’* performance** | | Details to follow |
| Friday 19th July | Annual Reports sent home. These will contain details of the next year regarding classes and teachers | | |
| Friday 19th July | **CO Jo’s, OPAL, Forest School, PE Family Day** | | Come and enjoy all our outdoor learning opportunities with your children |
| Tuesday 23rd July | **Meet the Teacher morning** | | Classes spend the morning with their new teachers finding out about the upcoming year |
| **Service of Thanksgiving for our Leavers at St Mary’s Church** | | 2.00pm at St Mar’s Church  All welcome to join our service. |
| Wednesday 24th July | LAST DAY OF TERM SCHOOL CLOSES AT 1.30PM  There will be **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB TODAY** | | **Year 6 Families, only, are invited to attend the fun leavers assembly at 12.15am** |

**DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/25**

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| **2024** | |
| **Autumn Term 1 School opens** | **Tuesday 3rd September 8.45am** |
| **School Closes** | **Wednesday 23rd October 3.15pm** |
| **Autumn Term 2 School Opens** | **Tuesday 5th November 8.45am** |
| **School Closes** | **Friday 20th December 1.30pm** |
| **2025** | |
| **Spring Term 1 School Opens** | **Monday 6th January 8.45am** |
| **School Closes** | **Friday 14th February 3.15pm** |
| **Spring Term 2 School Opens** | **Monday 24th February 8.45am** |
| **School Closes** | **Friday 4th April 1.30pm** |
| **Summer Term 1 School Opens** | **Tuesday 22nd April 8.45am** |
| **School Closes** | **Friday 23rd May 3.15pm** |
| **Summer Term 2 School Opens** | **Monday 2nd June 8.45am** |
| **School Closes** | **Friday 18th July 1.30pm** |